Thief River Falls

AND

Surrounding Territory

ILLUSTRATED

OLAF HUSEBY, Editor and Publisher, 215 Euclid Avenue, Grand Forks, North Dakota

PRICE 50 CENTS.

The Northern Minnesota Land Company

of Thief River Falls, Minnesota,

FFERS Special Inducements in Land and Farms in Marshall and Red Lake counties and particularly in the lately opened Indian Reservation, well known for its fertility. The Company is composed of reliable business men of Thief River Falls, and as to our standing we refer to any of the four banks of our city. Land is now cheaper than ever, and now is the time to buy if you desire a good independent home for your family.

Inquiries regarding Land and Farms cheerfully answered.

C. M. EVENSON, President
I. L. ERICKSON, Secretary
H. HADRATH and
NELS H. RAUK, Directors

The Northern Minnesota Land Co.
of Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Thief River Falls

AND

Surrounding Territory

ILLUSTRATED

OLAF HUSEBY, Editor and Publisher, 215 Euclid Avenue, Grand Forks, North Dakota

For any information regarding Land, City Property, Investments, Business Chances, etc., address

Photo by Borry

GENERAL VIEW OF THIEF RIVER FALLS

INTRODUCTION

THIS book is issued for the purpose of showing what the city and surrounding territory have developed into after the first white men came in about twenty-five years ago. It also will try to show the future possibilities for the people who are thinking about making Thief River Falls or surrounding country their home.

Not a little effort has been taken in searching for pictures from "the old times." It was not an easy task and would be impossible a few years hence. But this "looking backward" surely will interest everyone.

I have to thank the citizens for the help they have rendered and in this connection I, first and last, have to thank the "Old Timers," the City Council, the authors of the various articles and the photographers J. Borry and O. C. Evenson. I hope that this booklet will help to encourage all and every one in the work for building up the nicest, cleanest, and best city in the Northern part of Minnesota.

THE PUBLISHER.

GENERAL VIEW OF THIEF RIVER FALLS

Photo by Berry.

Why Named Thief River Falls

BY W. C. SMILEY

LET no one point the finger of scorn at Thief River. It is an ancient name, hoary with the traditions of centuries, and was, without doubt, the proper title of this stream before Columbus discovered the new world. The first white men who set foot in this region found the lake and river so called and learned the Indian tradition of the origin of the name, learned how a grim Sioux murderer, long before his tribe had been driven out by the Chippewas, had concealed himself in the vicinity of this river, and, for years, lived an outlaw's life of pillage and robbery, defying capture though surrounded by enemies.

About the year 1750 the Chippewas (Ojibways) drove the Sioux (Dakotas) out of Northern Minnesota, although for years thereafter, bands of Sioux warriors continued to roam this country as far east as Red Lake and to give battle to their hereditary enemies. The Chippewas translated the name into their own language but retained the meaning.

During this time the agents of the Hudson Bay company

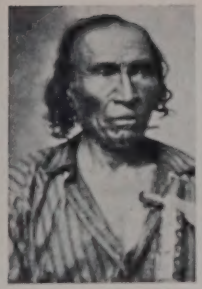
penetrated into this region and in 1800, Alexander Henry, a fur trader, writes of "Lac aux Voleurs" and "River aux Voleurs;" that is, in French, "Lake and River of Thieves."

Major S. H. Long, of the United States army, in 1823, headed an expedition which explored the Red River as far north as Winnipeg. On the map accompanying his report of this journey he notes: "Thief R.", probably the first time the name was set down in the English language. Mr. Long did not, himself, see the river. This was left for an adventurous young man named Beltrami, Italian by birth, French by adoption and wanderer by choice, who deserted the party at about the location of the present town of Hallock, and struck across country, alone, to Thief River, which he descended in a canoe to the site of this city, Thief River Falls. Thence following up Red Lake River he crossed lower Red Lake, ascended Mud river to Mud lake and portaged to a little lake which he believed to be the source of the Mississippi and which he named, in honor of his sweetheart in far off France, "Lake Julia". Thence following the Turtle lakes and river he paddled down to Cass lake and from there followed the Mississippi back to Fort Snelling. Lake Julia still bears that name and this group of lakes is called the "Julien sources" of the Mississippi.

Beltrami, in his book "Pilgrimages in Europe and America", tells of this trip and mentions "Robber river (called Wamans Watpa, by the Sioux and Powisci sibi by the Cypowais), so denominated because one of the Sioux, in his flight from the vengeance which had been denounced against him for murder, kept himself concealed, and robbed on this spot for many years, escaping the observation of his persecutors and enemies, by whom he was completely surrounded." The modern Chippewa name is Kemotake o cepe. Kemota meaning "steal", Kemotake, "thief" and cape "river."

From time to time persons have arisen among us who have clamored for a change of this name. To some it seems entirely too suggestive of the wild and woolly west to be a proper title for an honest, lawabiding community. However, so long as Chicago prospers and grows apace in spite of its name, which is just plain Chippewa for "skunk," we feel that old Thief River Falls can worry along for a few hundred years more under its ancient title.

Kiviniguanjasj



Wabane-qua-ash

Ponyhoof
Poh-ah-be-one

Highlanding George
Be-bame-gishe-goscong

Chief Moosedung
Mesco-coneh

Tall John
Naganao-ytong

Big Frog
Mac-cakee

The Early History of Thief River Falls

BY IRA C. RICHARDSON

THE site of the City of Thief River Falls was perfectly formed by nature for a large city. Excluding the depression in the surface made by the Red Lake River, there is not a natural elevation or depression of more than eight feet in the entire surface of the city; and the natural drainage is nearly perfect. The city lies on both sides of the Red Lake River immediately below its confluence with the Thief River; and, with the exception of a large steam saw mill, a meat market and a confectionary store, all business buildings are on the right, or west bank of the river.

A section of land popularly known as the "Chief's Section," slightly irregular in outline, bounded on the east by the Thief River about half the way and the other half by the Red Lake River just below the point where the two meet, was selected by the Indian Chief Moose Dung in 1863 and granted to him by the U. S. as pay for the part he took in perfecting arrangements for a treaty with the Indians by which they ceeded a large piece of their territory to the United States.

The original plat of Thief River Falls adjoined this Chief's section and to-day a large part of that section is within the city limits.

The fact that an Indian Chief picked out this particular section of land when he had more than a thousand to choose

Indian War Dance

Indian Graves

Ki-om-bo and Mary

Ready for Dance

from, is good evidence to show that the place was one of strategic importance.

It was there that the Sioux of Dakota and the Chippewas of Minnesota joined in their great Sun Dance each year, and recounted their experiences and deeds of valor and by tradition perpetuated their history.

The encroachments of the white man were discussed, ponies traded, presents exchanged and weddings consumated.

While the Indians are not a literary people, no one will deny that they knew their hunting grounds and the places where their people met most easily. The history of the United States shows that many of its great cities have been built where Indians were wont to congregate.

The land upon which Thief River Falls stands was first surveyed in 1879.

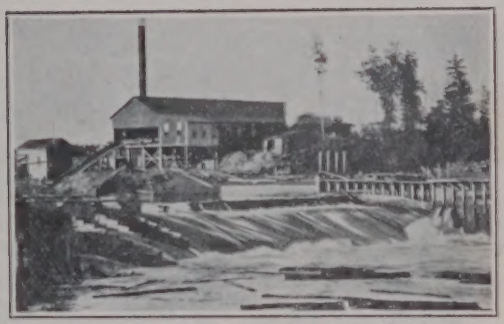
In 1880, Frank Russell, who had married in Dakota, a Creel Squaw, came here and camped near the junction of the two rivers on the reservation. He was driven off by the

On the Squaw Point, 1903

U. S. Surveyors Working Around Thief River Falls in Early Days

Ki-om-bo and His Two Wives

The Dam Before Any Saw Mill Was Built



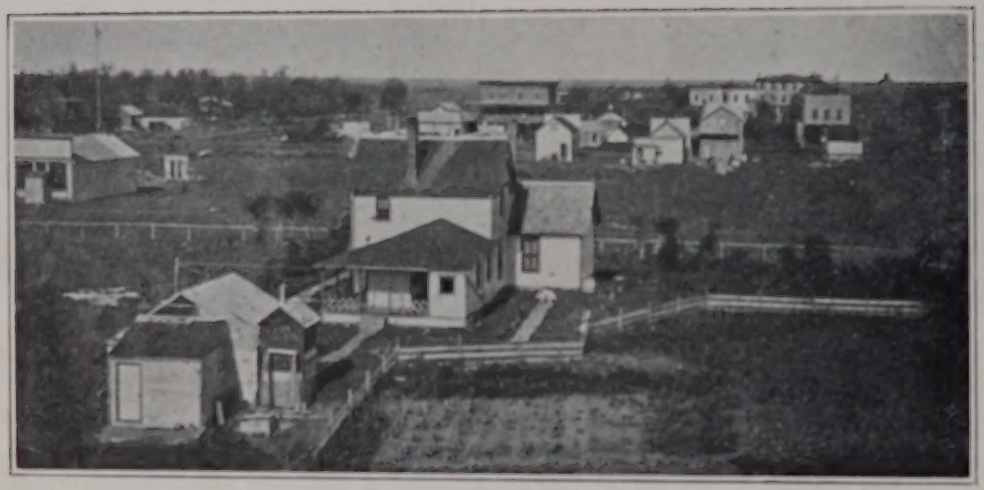
The First Saw Mill

Chippewas, when he located as a squatter, and built a log house in a grove at the west end of the iron bridge, but the following year he sold his improvements to John Baptiste La Bree for a white cow, a light wagon, $60 in cash and the promise of two lots when the ground should be platted. Mr. La Bree made final proof and on Nov. 17, 1882, deeded the farm to Carl Kretzschmar who had it platted and the plat recorded August 21, 1883. Mr. Kretzschmar was born in

Evenson Moose Farm

Chas. Knox and His Tame Bear

Deer in Kretzschmar's Enclosure



Thief River Falls in 1893

John La Bree and Wife

Germany and as a cook catered to the taste of the renowned Bismarck. He was one of the earliest settlers at Fergus Falls, Crookston and Red Lake Falls, Minn., was a townsite proprietor at Crookston and Red Lake Falls, and always an energetic worker and a generous giver for the promotion of the interests of the town where he lived. He was a builder to the extent of his means and always had the most perfect confidence in the future of Thief River Falls. He was the first president of the village and later was mayor of the city.

Shortly after filing the plat of Thief River Falls, Mr. Kretzschmar conveyed an interest in the property to Sarah La Bree, wife of John Baptiste La Bree, and the La Bree family continued to live on the land for many years. Mr. La Bree was a typical pioneer. He was a man of the western plains in his younger days, and was the first marshal of Crookston, Minnesota; and courageous enough to maintain civilization up to the line of an Indian Reservation. He was rough in speech and dress; but he was kind hearted and generous towards his white brethren. For some years he kept a trading post here where the Indians exchanged their furs and snake root for merchandise. He erected a very large log house that was open to all comers, and there are many people to testify to the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. La Bree. They reared a family of twelve children and their son Jonas was probably the first white child born where Thief River Falls stands.

The First Blacksmith Shop—
John Forsberg's

With Dog Sleds around Thief River
Falls Early Days

The O. K. Flour Mill

On Nov. 15th, 1881, George Maxfield filed on the NE. ¼, SW. ¼ and Lots 2, 3 and 4 of Section 33 Twpt. 154 N. of R. 43 W., containing 155.75 acres. But his claim was contested by William G. Porter in 1883, and a bitter struggle followed for two and a half years; gun powder was poured down Porter's stove pipe and his stove blown to atoms and his brother Christopher so badly injured that he carries the mark to this day; and other desperate means were used to drive Porter away; but he was perfectly fearless, and, in November 1886, was permitted to enter the land. In July 1888, he platted lots two and three of this claim as Porter's Addition to Thief River Falls, and all the business part and most of the residence portion of the city on the west side of the river to-day are upon the La Bree and Porter claims.

Mr. Porter was born in Ohio and came to Minnesota when a boy. He came to Red Lake Falls, Minn., in 1880 as a laboring man. He was strictly honest and generous and had a host of friends who cheered him in the latter years of his life when he was bravely and cheerfully combating a stomach trouble that cut him down in 1900.

In 1882, James Warner filed a pre-emption on some government lots in sections 33 and 34 just across the Red Lake River from the La Bree claim and in 1888 sold to Wiley Tindolph who soon after platted the land and called it Red Lake Rapids.

In 1892 C. J. Knox bought eighty acres adjoining Red Lake Rapids and platted it as Knox's Addition to Red Lake Rapids.

Dennis Connely settled on land in said section 34 in 1883 and afterwards platted Connely's first, second and third additions. In Red Lake Rapids, Knox's addition and Connely's addition a population of over 1500 people have their homes; and altogether that part of the city is indeed a very pretty residence portion; commonly it is called "The East Side." Mr. Connely came from Canada directly to this place; and owns a farm of 320 acres adjoining the city that is one of the finest farms in the county. Mr. and Mrs.

Oldtimers

Standing, from left: J. P. Forsberg, Christ Porter, C. A. Robbecke, Phil Zeh, Frank Tildon.
Sitting, from left: Peter Newman, S. T. Johnson, F. H. Kratka, Hans Nelson, A. W. Dolson.

Oldtimers

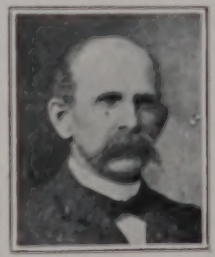
From left: W. Jesse La Bree ,M. C. Burns, Nels Knutson, T. J. Carr.

The portraits of two other "Oldtimers," Gottfried Adolph and Leonh Peterson, can be seen on the inside picture of the electric power house.

Connely have always taken a prominent part in church matters and have reared a family of six children. Mrs. Connely was clerk of the school district and Mr. Connely held different town offices in the early days; but both are better known for their generous hospitality than on account of any official acts.

Messrs. C. Anderson and John Hemmingsen also took claims in section 33, which completes the roll of the early

C. Falk



H. E. Mussey

Ira C. Richardson

settlers upon the present town site. The former early disposed of his claim, while the latter lived to rear a large family on his. He was a large hearted, public spirited man, freely contributing of his means to every enterprise for the public weal.

Having briefly outlined the history of the founding of the city, we proceed to give an equally brief account of some of the early settlers who contributed to its growth and some of the public enterprises with which they were identified.

In 1880 M. C. Burns filed on land adjoining section 33 which was subsequently sold, the proceeds being invested in city property from which he now derives a competency. With one exception namely, Jesse La Bree, Mr. Burns enjoys the distinction of living longer in the city than any one else. Of Mr. Burns early days, of his marriage to Miss Nellie Powers, and of the excellent family resulting from the union, a mention must suffice. Of his sterling character as a citizen we need not speak, being too well known to require extended notice. Jesse La Bree came here as a boy, grew to man's estate and achieved an enviable record as a business man.

Hotel Ogahmah, 1888

Hotel Ogahmah 1892 and later

C. H. Porter, in many respects an ideal pioneer, arrived in 1883, he should have been named "Andy Handy" as the following record will show. He became in turn laborer, drayman, express messenger, mail carrier, house mover, and butcher with farming as a side issue. Strange to say he made money. His character is well established.

Col. C. A. Robbecke was born in Germany, emigrated to this country, became a soldier in the regular army where he served for five years, opened the first restaurant in Crookston, in which town he married Miss Louisa Meyer, removed to St. Hilaire and there built a hotel after which he

Knox's Office

The Old Hay Market

S. T. Johnson's Candy Store

entered a homestead adjoining section 33 and removed his hotel from St. Hilaire to Thief River Falls In the latter town he has lived, acquiring fame as a landlord and a thrifty citizen, and raising a large and respected family.

A different type of a man, but equally well known is A. W. Dolson, a civil war veteran who, on account of weakness brought on by wounds and exposure has been unable to do more than earn an honest living. His reputation as a brave soldier and a true patriot is secure.

Other soldiers of the civil war who have aided in building up the community are S. T. Johnson, and Frank Tilton. The former opened the first barber shop in the city while he dispensed justice as Justice of the Peace. He is now county commissioner. The latter has been custodian of the cemetery ever since that institution became a necessity.

As merchant, postmaster, and member of the school board, Hans Nelson has been well and favorably known since his arrival here in 1888.

J. W. Walker who successively held the offices of village and city treasurer until 1907, dates his residence in the community back to 1883, but a year ago, on account of failing health, was compelled to remove to the pine woods.

The record would be incomplete without mention of John N. Whitman, soldier, hotel keeper, citizen whose character was above reproach and whose reminiscences of the civil war were realistic and interesting. He is gone and his place shall know him no more.

A familiar figure upon our streets is Peter Newman who still, after the lapse of forty years, retains his soldierly bearing.

Two highly esteemed settlers of the early days who tarried for awhile and then departed are Henry Williams and Frank Richter. Two mill-wrights, Messrs. Jacklin and Wendt came in the early days, Jacklin however left in 1893, while Wendt died of pneumonia in 1897, leaving a wife and large family.

Herbert Holzknecht enjoys the distinction of being the first white man married in Thief River Falls, Miss Nellie

Thief River Falls First City Band.

Johnson being the happy bride. The wedding was "pulled off" with becoming eclat befitting so auspicious an event.

The first wheat grown on the town site was shocked by Gilbert Haavi. The first Fourth of July celebration was observed in 1882. The first white children born in Thief River Falls were Jonas La Bree and Frank H. Kratka. The first school was taught by Miss Box in 1882, according to rumor, but the first school of which there is authentic record was in 1883, taught by Miss Ella Wallin. Other early teachers were Misses Bird, Page, Whaley, Ralph, Hancock, Link and Howes, and Messrs. Vance, and Morgan. But the one who left her impress upon the hundreds of pupils who received their first lesson at her hands was Miss Wallin, who, after a brief absence resumed the work of teaching, until compelled, by defective hearing to resign.

The year 1884 was marked by the erection of the first school building, an unpretentious one-roomed affair, but equipped with factory furniture. The year was marked by the arrival of Frank H. Kratka and by the erection of a most imposing three-story building which, after some unusual vicissitudes of fortune, and much patient waiting became, in 1892, The Great Northern Hotel. The first host was R. R. Pratt, but to Frank H. Kratka belongs the honor of its erection.

Mr. Kratka has always been one of the most ardent and earnest workers in the interests of Thief River Falls, never

John La Bree's Homestead

letting an opportunity pass to say or do a good thing for this city. He has held the office of president of the village and mayor of the city a number of times, has represented the city in many ways on important matters, and no doubt has worked as hard, if not harder, than any other man in the state for the opening of the reservation. He is now postmaster of the city.

Two flouring mills came with the year 1888, and among the large number who came as settlers in that year an honored place must be given to Mr. Phillip Zeh and wife who enjoy the distinction of erecting the first brick building in the town. The year 1888 was further memorable by the building of the dam across the Red Lake River, an undertaking that redounds to the credit of the late Carl Kretzschmar, and contributed in no small degree, to the prosperity of the town. A flour mill and a saw mill were the natural result of the erection of the dam. A flouring mill run by steam was erected by J. W. Howes. A steam boat built and owned by J. W. Howes and Christ Linde and named "The Monitor" soon began to plow the waters of the Red Lake and Thief Rivers.

1904 saw the removal of the Indians to their diminished reservation, and their departure was deeply regretted by the white population, as the intercourse between the two races had been peaceful and pleasant.

In 1890 section 33 was included in the organization of the village and the first council meeting was held in May of that year. Carl Kretzschmar being elected president and Wm. G. Porter secretary.

Before Thief River Falls was incorporated as a city the following men acted as village presidents: Carl Kretzschmar, 1890; F. H. Kratka, 1891; J. H. Sanders, 1892; F. H. Kratka, 1893; Jim Meehan, Jr., 1894; Carl Kretzschmar, 1895; Jim Meehan, Jr., 1896.

A saw mill was begun by Patrick and James Meehan in 1891 which was in full operation in the following year. Nor was this all, for 1892 saw the river spanned by a noble steel bridge, the opening of the G. N. Hotel, the arrival of the first railroad train, the opening of the first steam-boat line between Thief River Falls and the agency, and last but not least, the building of the first church, the Methodist Episcopal. Freight rates prior to the opening of the railroad were $1.50 per hundred from St. Hilaire, a distance of only eight

Photo by Borry

U. S. Land Officials in charge of opening and sale of Red Lake Reservation, 1904.
Sitting from left: Major G. L. Scott, W. A. Richards, Col. N. J. O'Brien, A. F. George.
Standing from left: P. Bergerson, F. B. Walker, M. A. Malone, J. W. Wing, F. A. Allen, C. F. Mayer, G. C. Hunt, Sylvester Peterson, G. A. Jolliffe.

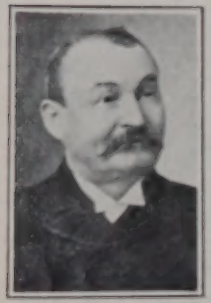
Ole Peterson, the Wolf Hunter;
From 1889; picture taken where the Presbyterian Church now stands.

miles. Falk and Langseth had the largest general merchandise store. Evenson Bros. and Rasmus Oen dealt in hardware. These were supplemented in 1892 by O. P. Johnson general merchandise, and P. O. Berg household furniture. The trade individualism of the day resulted in a war of contending interests in 1894, to remedy which the Business Men's Union was organized. A more serious controversy however arose about the same time over the proposition of Ray W. Jones to build a saw mill. The enterprise was at length abandoned after engendering widespread bitterness. The Meehan brothers continued business until 1900, when their property was sold to D. C. Winton and others, which firm, under the name of "The Thief River Falls Lumber Co." still runs the mill and contributes to the prosperity of the city.

The space allowed for this article will not permit a biographical account of all the early settlers, but enough has been mentioned to refresh the memories of those living and afford valuable reference.

The directory of first business men is here given and is as follows:

Postmaster, T. Thibeault; Merchant, Joe Gerdeau; Printers, E. C. Knappen & A. E. White, established "Thief River Falls Press" 1889; Druggist, John Hookoltz 1884; Saloon keeper, T. Thibeault, 1883; Hardwareman, Henry Cook, 1883; Blacksmith, John Forsberg, 1888; Liveryman, Chas. Meyer; Harnessmaker, W. W. Gibb; Preacher, Rev. Thomas, Methodist; Doctor, Henry Grundy, 1892; Lawyer, Ira C. Richardson, 1892; Bank, First State, 1892, Lewis P. Johnson, cashier.

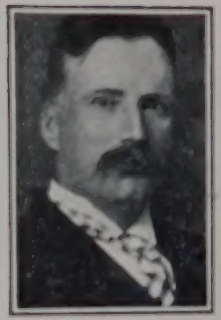


C. Kretzschmar
Village Pres. 1890
City Mayor 1900-01

Frank H. Kratka
1896-97, 1902-03

C. L. Dobner
1898-99

D. B. Bakke
1904-05



Dr. H. Grundy
1906-07

T. P. Hamre
1908-09

Thief River Falls City Government

BY LARS BACKE

ON THE 19th day of June 1896, Lars Backe and Chas. J. Knox made affidavits to a certain petition to the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County for the incorporation of the Village of Thief River Falls and contiguous territory as a city under provisions of Chapter 8, Laws of 1895, and that the corporate name thereof be "Twin Falls."

By resolution of July 26th, 1896, the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County granted the petition to incorporate, except as to the name, as an other petition signed by M. C. Burns and others endorsing the first petition, but praying that the name of the Corporation be Thief River Falls in place of Twin Falls and ordered an election to be held to vote on the proposition September 1st, 1896.

The County Commissioners of Polk County, Minnesota, on the 15th day of September, 1896, decreed the territory incorporated as a city, under the name of Thief River Falls.

The first city election under the new organization was held Oct. 17th, 1896, under notice given by the Board of Commissioners of Polk County.

On the 26th day of Oct. 1896, the County Board issued its certificate declaring F. H. Kratka elected Mayor; J. W. Wallin, Treasurer; Chas. J. Knox, John E. Burkee, P. O. Bergh, Chas. A. Robbecke and O. T. Tandberg, Aldermen.

The new City Council organized on November 4th, 1896,

The City Council, 1908.
From left standing: G. Halvorson, City Atty., M. V. Evenson, Alderman at large.
From left, sitting: T. P. Hamre, Mayor; Ed Evenson, Treas.; Olaf Ramstad, Alderman 1st Ward; W. W. Prichard, Pres. of Council; Milton Forder, Alderman 2nd Ward; Lars Backe, City Clerk (Since 1894.)

Electric Power House Inside

by electing C. J. Knox, President, P. O. Bergh, Vice President; Lars Backe, City Clerk.

Certain interests at this time requested the Attorney General to file an information against persons constituting the new council in order to test the validity of the new Corporation. In his opinion dated Dec. 10th, 1896, held the incorporation to be legal and declined to file the information. An act, by the Legislature in 1897, legalized the attempt to organize under Chapter 8, Laws of 1895, and finally, as the matter has been taken through all the Courts of the State by H. W. Lee, Attorney, the State Supreme Court declared the City of Thief River Falls to be duly organized as a City under the provisions of Chapter 8, Laws of 1895.
Population in 1890, was 191. Population in 1905, was 3502.
Population in 1895, was 840. Population in 1907, was 5043.
Population in 1900, was 1853.

City Hall

The New Bridge

Hospital Bethany

Offices of the City.

Regular city elections are held in Nov. of each odd numbered year, elective officers being Mayor, Treasurer, two Aldermen at large, and one ward Alderman for each ward; appointive offices are City Clerk, City Attorney and Assessor. Total vote cast at last election for state and county offices 801.

City mayors since incorporation: F. H. Kratka, 1896-1897; C. L. Dobner, 1898-1899; C. Kretzschmar, 1900-1901; F. H. Kratka, 1902-1903; D. B. Bakke, 1904-1905; Dr. H. Grundy, 1906-1907; T. P. Hamre, 1908-1909.

Departments of the City.

Park Board, Library Board, Fire Department, Police Department, Electric Light Department, Waterworks Department, Street Department, Health Department, Municipal Court.

Electric Light Department was established by an ordinance, June 17th, 1901. Electric Light Bonds were sold to the amonut of $7,500, at 4½ per cent: number of customers 400. Monthly revenues, $1,600—not including City Lighting and Street Lighting and power for operating waterworks. Plant is in excellent condition. Total expended on the plant in construction, improvements and extensions $33,000, which was paid for out of bond issue of $7,500—and earnings of the plant, there still remains cash belonging to its fund in the City Treasury of $9,801.60 at this date of writing.

Waterworks Department, established 1905. Has twenty-five hydrants; 10,500 feet of mains; a water tank of 75,000 gallons capacity; triplex power fire pump of 750 gallons capacity per minute, operated by a 65 H. P. electric motor, one gould deep well pump, operated by a 65 H. P. electric motor. Total cost of system $37,000. Estimated rent tor fire hydrants is $1,800 per year and water rent to customers $1,600 a year.

Fire Department composed of fire chief, first, second and third assistants, secretary and twelve firemen. The chief is paid $100 a year; 1st, ass't and secretary $75.00 a year 2nd and 3rd ass't $50.00 a year and firemen $40.00 a year, all paid quarterly.

There are miles of fine streets, cement walks, boulevards and curbs. The city owns a park, city hall, public library, power station buildings for their electric light and waterworks departments and a city cemetery.

Fire Department, 1908

City Band, 1908

Financial Conditions of the City.

Bonded indebtedness, $52,500.00; assets of the city consist of cash in treasury about $8,000.00; city buildings and real estate; fire apparatus; waterworks; electric light plant and a general sewer system installed at a cost to the city of about $105,000, but the actual commercial value to date would be nearer double the amount if the city should place it on the market for sale; an iron bridge across Red Lake river costing $16,000.00, and a wooden bridge across Thief River costing $3,000, and all city street improvements not figured as actual assets of the city. Regular revenues of the city from all sources estimated for the year 1908 of about $50,000.00. These revenues are judiciously spent in paying necessary salaries, improvements and extentions and for the maintenance of the different city departments.

July, 1908.

Andrew Lang
Chief of Police

J. F. Farr

F. H. Chittick

Central School

High School

Knox School

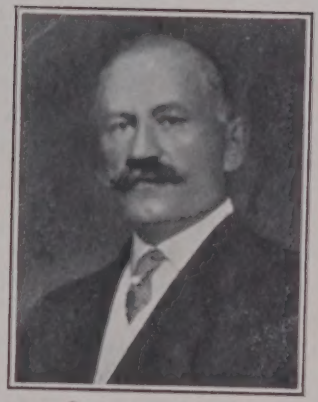
Thief River Falls Schools

BY J. H. HAY, Superintendent

THE first school taught in this city, district 107, was a three months term in 1883, with Miss Helen Wallin as teacher. A building in the grove near the iron bridge was used, the furniture consisting of a dry goods box for a desk, and planks resting on powder kegs for the seats. The enrollment was ten pupils, eight of the La Bree family and two of Lyman Clark's children, Mary, now Mrs. George Turville and Amanda, now Mrs. Weaver. She taught but one term here and then continued in country districts until 1890, when she was again engaged for this district and taught in a building that had been erected on lots on Third Street, where Remmem's livery stable now stands. The attendance was now so large that the first building used was bought and moved to the corner of First street and Horace Avenue and Miss Helen Davies engaged to teach a higher grade. The first school board was elected in 1883 as follows: Director, John La Bree; Clerk, Ed La Bree: Treasurer, Dennis Connely.

The growth of the place was so great that in 1893 lots were purchased and the Central school building erected and more teachers employed. The growth has continued until now three large eight and ten room buildings are used, and twenty-five teachers employed with an attendance of 1100 scholars.

The Board of Education, 1908
From left: Dr. F. H. Gambell; Lars Backe, president; C. C. Jackson; Emil Zeh, treasurer; Dr. G. A. Penny, secretary; D. P. O'Neill.



J. H. Hay, Superintendent

The first school in Red Lake Rapids on the east side, district 58, was taught by Mr. O. T. Tandberg, commencing in September, 1894, in a dwelling house north of the German church. The school board was W. I. McCrum, Director; Oscar Anderson, Clerk; August Brown, Treasurer. The district erected the two west rooms of the Knox school building on lots donated by C. J. Knox this same year and it was occupied in November with Mrs. William Proctor as teacher. Early in January, 1895, the building caught fire and burned to the ground. It was rebuilt that summer and ready for occupancy at the commencement of the fall term.

An addition of two rooms was constructed in 1900. In 1901, the district was united with district 107, as Independent School District No. 18.

The schools of Thief River Falls have always been a matter of the deepest concern to her citizens, and the educational interests of the city have ever received the closest attention and the most generous support of her taxpayers. Regardless of the cost and the times, whether good or bad, they have consistently supported the cause of education

and insisted on maintaining a system of public schools second to none in the state of Minnesota. This attitude accounts for the three handsome school buildings that adorn the three wards of the city of Thief River Falls. They are of modern construction, attractive and convenient within and without and all surrounded by neat and well kept grounds. They represent an investment of approximately $100,000.

The Thief River Falls school system comprises the eight grades of common school work, supplemented by a full four years of high school study. The schools are thoroughly graded and promotion from grade to grade is based upon definite study along well prepared outlines of work. The high school is organized so as to afford a large selective list of studies, which include five complete and distinct courses: English, classical, scientific, commercial and a moral training course for teachers. The latter course is a special one designed to prepare students for rural school teachers. The state grants the Thief River Falls high school special aid in the maintenance of this department to the extent of $750 per year. The commercial course is as complete as that offered by the average so called business college. The other courses include the subjects usually presented in the same. The high school is well supplied with laboratories, libraries, and supplementary material. All the text books used in the high school and the grades are furnished free to all attending students, and non-residents pay neither book rent nor tuition. Athletics and literary societies are encouraged, but are under the direction and control of the faculty.

Industrial work, music and drawing receive due attention, and next year agriculture will be added to the course of study. The total enrollment of pupils last year was 1098, of whom 154 were enrolled in the high school. Twenty-five teachers are engaged for 1908-09.

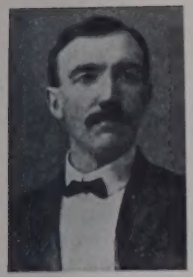
It might be added that the board of education consists of six leading citizens, under whose wise direction a progressive administration is at all times maintained. An addition to the present high school building will be constructed in 1909, though many persons suggest the advisability of constructing an entirely new high school structure, and using the older building for grade purposes. The present high school is only six years old and when it was constructed was thought to be ample for high school purposes for many years to come. The rapid and stable growth and development of Thief River Falls and surrounding territory have made it inadequate for present requirements, let alone future increase, consequently the action suggested above.

The present school system is second to none in northern Minnesota, but the citizens of Thief River Falls are determined to maintain this enviable position and afford the youth of this portion of the state the easiest and greatest opportunities of securing a thorough education absolutely free of cost.

Thief River Falls Public Library was organized by the ladies of Thief River Falls, Minnesota, April 13th, 1901, with Mrs. James Meehan, president.

It was attached to the city government as a separate department in May, 1906, and was re-organized, under the Minnesota Library Commission. Circulation in 1907 over 7,000 with about 600 readers.

Reading room has twelve leading magazines. Mrs. Elizabeth Blanchard is librarian.

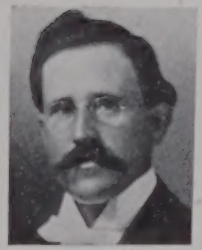

Rev. M. L. Dahle

Rev. I. T. Aastad

Neil A. Gilchrist

Rev. Ino B. Smith

Rev. F. J. Seltz


Rev. A. L. Larson

Rev. Henry Halvorson

Thief River Falls Churches

THIEF River Falls has represented within its borders nearly every leading denomination, well supported and steadily gaining in numbers and influence.

Methodists. The Methodists were the first denomination to organize here. They started the first Sunday School here with Miss Helen Wallin as teacher, and the first organization was effected in 1886 by Rev. Mr. Thomas. The church was built in 1892, but later moved to its present beautiful site. Rev. Ino B. Smith, born and educated in England, is pastor of the church.

Presbyterians. The congregation was organized in 1900 with Rev. W. F. Finch as pastor. In 1903 the fine church building was completed. Rev. N. A. Gilchrist is serving the congregation.

Baptists. The Swedish Baptist Congregation—Rev. Nils Ek, pastor—intends to build a church in near future.

Catholics. A mission of the Catholic Church was organized about 1893 under Father Harepin. In 1896 the church building and in 1901 the parsonage was completed. The present pastor of St. Bernard church is Father Adolph Dingman.

Lutherans. 1. The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Norwegian Synod was organized 1893. The first pastor was P. T. Hilman. The present pastor is I. T. Aastad, born in Valdris, Norway, graduate from Luther Seminary in 1895.

2. The German Evangelical Lutheran St. John's Congregation was organized in 1895 by Rev. A. Kuring. The church property was erected during Rev. B. Luttman's service. Rev. F. J. Seltz, graduate of the Concordia Theological Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., is the present pastor.

3. The Swedish Mission Church was built in 1896. Rev. Wm. Lundin is serving the congregation.

4. The Scandinavian Evangelical Church was built in 1900. Services conducted on the Evangelist plan.

5. The Zion Church of the Lutheran Free Church was organized 1903 by Rev. Aug. Bredesen. The present pastor is Rev. A. L. Larson, who graduated from the Augsburg Theological Seminary in 1902.

6. Our Savior's Congregation of the United Norwegian Lutheran Church was organized in 1906. Rev. Henry Halvorson, graduate from the Theological Seminary of the United Church, 1908, is serving the congregation.

7. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation was organized in 1906 and is affiliated with Hauge Norwegian Synod. Rev. M. L Dahle, graduate from Red Wing Theological Seminary, is the pastor.

Adventists. For about six years ago the congregation was organized and shortly after a church was built.

Norwegian Synod Church

Zion Lutheran Church

St. Bernard Catholic Church

Scandinavian Evangelical Church

Methodist Episcopal Church

Presbyterian Church

L. Backe

C. B. Bakke

O. L. Bakken

Nels Berg

James Bulman

O. J. Blom

Dr. Wm. Booren

J. Borry

W. E. Baker

Ben Christenson

J. J. Crowe

F. S. Doege

Ben Erickson

Chas. Evenson

Mart Evenson

Ben Falk

A. H. Fasel

J. P. Forsberg

Carl Froseth

Dr. F. H. Gambell

Chr. Gulrud

A. Halseth

G. Halvorson

P. P. Hamre

T. P. Hamre

J. H. Hay

Jacob Jonas

Sam T. Johnson

F. H. Kratka

W. Jesse La Bree

O. Legvold

K. Lappegaard

Andrew Lang

Mrs. Anna Langseth

Robt. McGinn

T. L. Melgaard

Dr. O. F. Mellby

Nels K. Nelson

D. P. O'Neill

O. Nyhus

Dr. G. A. Penney

Leonh Peterson

Christ Porter

W. W. Prichard

Olaf Ramstad

Ira C. Richardson

H. H. Skagen

John Sorenson

Andrew Stenseth

H. P. Sponheim

Philip Zeh

E. E. Zeh

State Militia, 3rd Regiment, Company L, 1908

The elected officers are: Captain, Christian A. Wiste; 1st Lieutenant, James Bulman; 2nd Lieutenant, W. B. Fuller.

All of the officers have seen actual service in the field. Capt. Wiste was a sergeant and drill officer in the 33rd Coast Heavy Artillery for several years. Lieut. "Jim" Bulman served in a Michigan regiment during the Spanish-American war, was sent south and saw his share of the hardships. Lieut. W. B. Fuller, enlisted with the 13th Minnesota, went to the Philippines and saw twelve months of actual service and fighting on the Islands.

Sergeants: Oscar Sponheim, K. M. Hansen, Lewis A. Nelson, Oscar F. Mellby, B. Docken, J. E. Farr.

Corporals: J. A. Swore, P. Medderigh, W. W. Prichard, Jr., H. Eyde, A. Anderson, Dennis Le Sage.

On Red Lake River

Father Adolph's Communion Class.

Rev. Aastad's Confirmation Class, 1908

Plenty of Game Around Thief River Falls.

Northern Minnesota Firemen's Tournament, 1908

Scene on the River Bank

Bathing in Red Lake River

Thief River Falls Baseball Team, 1908

Fishing from the River Bank

Thief River Falls Benevolent Orders

BY REV. INO B. SMITH

THE natural independence of character in the American people revolts at the idea of receiving "charity" even in times of need; while his heart gladly responds to an appeal from a needy brother.

These traits of character have led to the founding of numberless societies in which, without loss of self respect, he may both give and receive aid in time of need.

Sons of Norway—Officers 1908, Lodge Organized Dec. 1907

These societies or orders are well represented in Thief River Falls. Showing that our citizens are abreast of the times and in this particular are sustaining the best reputation of American citizenship. Without claiming to be exhaustive in list of orders, or to make invidious comparisons in regard to their relative merits, the following are undoubtedly doing splendid work in their specific line.

Odd Fellows—It would be an odd community indeed, in which a lodge of this great brotherhood was not to be found and as our community has no wish to enjoy a distinction of that kind, we present, with great pleasure the names of the chief officers of the I. O. O. F.: Chas. Olson, N. G., J. L. Higgins, V. G., Wm. Durbin, Sec., Emil Zeh, Treas.

Royal Neighbors—Have grown to be a power under the leadership of Mrs. Ora Richardson and Mrs. A. Bailey, the former lady held the office of Oracle, for ten years and the latter, that of Secy., for eight years. At present the officers are as follows: Mrs. Nettie Cady, O., Mrs. J. Rayson, V. O., Mrs. O. M. Richardson, R. O., Mrs. M. Walker, Receiver, Mesdames Richardson, Nason, and Higgins, Managers. Insurance is carried for $42,500.

Modern Woodmen of America, are efficiently represented by Ogamah Camp, No. 3104. This vigorous and growing camp is officered by men whose names are a synonym for activity and enterprise. The list is hereto appended:

Ira C. Richardson, Consul, J. L. Higgins, Advisor, Louis Lonson, Clerk, H. A. Ohm, Banker, Lorin Miller, Escort, K. M. Hanson, Watchman, H. D. Cady, Sentry, Dr. H. Grundy, Physician.

The O. E. S., as might be predicted in a city as large as this, has a flourishing chapter, known as Winslow Chapter, No. 182. The present officers are as follows:

Jessie L. Penney, W. M., A. I. Anderson, W. P., Nicoline Hawes, A. M., Edith Anderson, Sec.

A.F. and A. M.—Northern Lodge, No. 236, was organized March 26th, 1901, with eight charter members, viz:

C. E. Winslow, C. L. Dobner, James Rodgers, C. A. Robbecke, L. G. Browning, W. A. Wright, W. B. Fuller, and C. F. Umbreit.

The growth of the order has been as phenomenal as the growth of the city. It now occupies its own building valued at $9,500., has a total membership of 85; and conferred 50 degrees during the year 1907.

No small part of this enviable record is due to its founder and first Master, C. E. Winslow, whose tragic death in the historic Iroquois fire in Chicago, will long be remembered.

The officers are: W. B. Fuller, W. M., Ben Christianson, S. W., J. L. Durbin, J. W., T. L. Melgaard, Treas., W. E. Baker, Secy., W. A. Wyman, S. D., J. H. Hay, J D., E. E. Zeh, S. S., A. I. Anderson, J. S., H. Ohm, Tyler, J. B. Smith, Chaplain.

Eagles—The Thief River Falls Aerie adequately represents this order, the meetings of which are held in the Odd Fellows Hall.

The Modern Brotherhood of America, has a total enrollment of 80, and has upwards of $80,000 of insurance in force.

J. S. Collins, President, O. C. Evenson, V. P., Mrs. E. J. Erickson, Secy. & Treas., Paul Meddrigh, Conductor.

Besides the societies above referred to, there are some others which partake rather of the character of labor organizations, and which can be better dealt with under that caption. These all tend to promote the interest and well being of their members, but from the social and industrial side rather than that of benevolence.

It will readily be seen that Thief River Falls possesses adequate facilities for caring for the needs and gratifying the desires of those who may wish to avail themselves of the advantages of any of the Benevolent Orders.

Brotherhood of American Yeomen was organized in September, 1908.

As we go to press we are informed that a "Homestead" of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen is being worked up by Deputy Organizer Edward Engson and will be organized shortly.

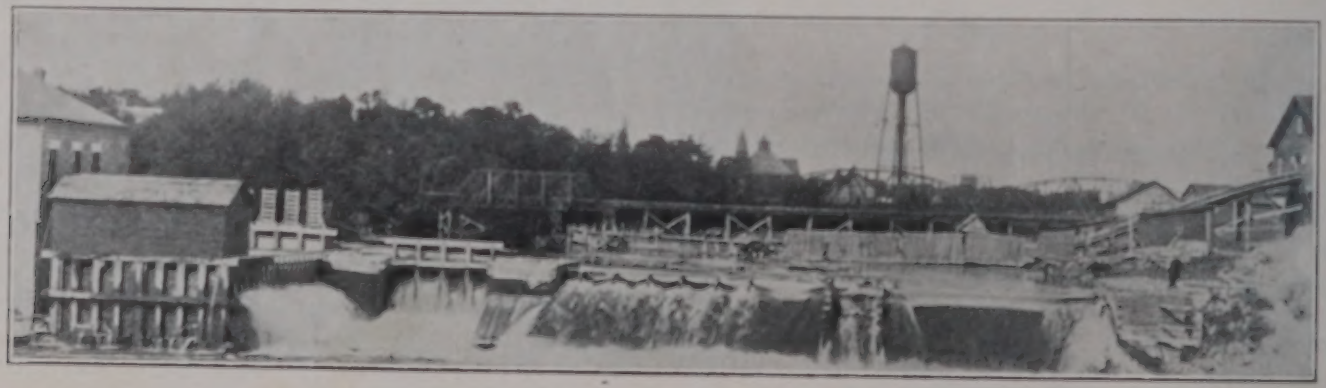
Excellent Water Power

BY LEONH PETERSON

FEW if any cities in the Northwest can boast of a better water power than Thief River Falls. Situated in the heart of the city, on Red Lake River, which is fed from the great Red Lake, it affords an abundance of water and with a fall of fifteen feet at this point develops over two-thousand horse-power. Part of this power is now used for running a large flour mill twenty-four hours a day, furnishing light at night and power during the day. Electric power is now furnished for every industry from a sewing machine to driving the large pumps for the city water works.

As it is, only a small portion of the power is used and the city is now prepared to furnish cheap electric power to mills and factories that may wish to locate here and which will undoubtedly come here, as both the Soo Line and the Great Northern railroads are competing lines.

One among others of the great advantages of this power is its freedom from destructive floods and high water in the spring or at any time of the year. The record shows that the river never rises over four feet at high water over low water mark, on account of the swiftness of the current. This, with the fact that there is always an abundance of water in the river, the lakes acting as reservoirs in dry seasons make this power an ideal one, as it is always uniform and reliable.



The Water Power and the Electric Power House

Logs in the River

The Saw Mill

A Trip on Red Lake River with Andy Erickson

Workers in the Planing Mill

Workers in the Saw Mill

Mr. Yell's Friends

Saw Mill Workers

Saw Mill Workers

Thief River Falls as a Financial and Commercial Center

BY W. W. PRICHARD

IN THIS day and age the business of any community or locality is to quite an extent gauged by its bank clearings. In the year 1888 the first bank was established in Thief River Falls known as the Polk County Bank. This bank was re-organized in 1896 as the First State Bank with a capital of $10,000. In December 1900, the second bank was established known as the Scandia State Bank, also capitalized at $10,000. This bank was reorganized in July, 1901 as the First National Bank with a capital of $25,000. In April, 1901, the entire deposits of the two banks amounted to but $75,000 and loans of $65,000. The Citizens State Bank with a capital of $20,000 was organized in 1903 and the Peoples State Bank with a capital of $30,000 in 1906. The combined capital and surplus of the four banks now amount to $100,000 and with deposits of half a million, the greater part of which belongs to the farmers. When we take into consideration that only a few years ago the medium of exchange was to quite an extent snake root and furs and the early settler had very little cash capital to begin with, the showing is not bad. Our merchants do a retail business annually of more than three quarters of a million dollars. Add to this the volume of business done by the Lumber Company with its annual cut of over 40 million feet, the flour mill with its 150 barrel daily output, the sash and door factory, the creamery and wholesale houses, and the figures are startling. The monthly payroll of the different industries and railroads amount to $30,000.

The trade territory covers fully forty townships of land and it is estimated that not over one fourth of this is as yet developed. This being true, what will the volume of business be when the greater part of the land tributary to Thief River Falls is under cultivation?

It is generally conceded that we now have one of the best market towns in the northern part of the state, and we are optimistic enough to believe that, in the near future, Thief River Falls will be the best town in the North West and a commercial center of great importance.

Thief River Falls as a Railway Center

THE City of Thief River Falls as a railroad center is well located. For many years it had no railroad facilities and was first connected with the outside world by a stub of the Great Northern from St. Hilaire and later by construction of the Greenbush line extending the territory of the city to the northern part of the state. Later on, came the main line of the Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway, popularly known as the Soo Line, between the Twin Cities and Winnipeg; and, just later, the Thief River Falls Kenmare Line of the same road, was built 300 miles long, westwardly through the famous No. 1 hard wheat country of Northern Minnesota and North Dakota. The construction of this line at once made Thief River Falls a railroad center of no small importance by locating terminal facilities such as are required at a Division point; Round House, car repairing shops, division headquarters, etc., and bringing a small army of employes to the city, having a monthly pay roll of nearly twenty thousand dollars. With the advent of the Soo Line the city commenced to make marvelous improvements and now in the short space of four years no city in the Northwest can show better buildings and civic improvements, and all are built to stand the ravages of time; the builders well knowing that Thief River Falls is located in a strategical position to command the trade of all these hundreds of miles and scores of country towns lying north and west of her on the Soo Line, and the vast unbroken territory east, along the Red Lake River and the Great Red Lake, the largest in the state. From twenty to thirty thousand dollars worth of business is done each month at the local offices of the Soo Line, and ten thousand dollars monthly at the Great Northern office, and it is gratifying to know that during the financial stringency of the past year, that business increased monthly at Thief River Falls.

It needs no prophetic eye to see that in the not far distant future Thief River Falls will have a line of railroad to the Zenith City opening up a wonderful country of prairie, forest, and stream, covering a great portion of Northern Minnesota, whose silence as yet is unbroken by the whistle of the locomotive.

In other articles in this book mention has been made of the vast territory lying east of this city which has not yet been penetrated by any railroad, so that people have been and are now coming to Thief River Falls from a distance of over fifty miles to the east and northeast, and on account of this lack of transportation facilities this large territory is not producing one tenth of what it is capable of, and it does not take a prophet to see this territory must be accommodated with railroads.

Knowing these conditions, some of the business men of the city have within the last year organized a company for the purpose of building an electric railway into this territory and steps have already been taken to secure water power with which to produce electric power and inspections have been made with the idea of locating the line and it is safe to say that this line will be built within the next two or three years. This line will become one of the great feeders for this city and will insure the northeastern territory to this city forever and will at the same time be a blessing to the farmers in this vast region.

When this has been accomplished, together with a line from Duluth and the county seat has been located here, which is sure to happen, there is no question but Thief River Falls will be a very large city.

MARSHALL
Argyle
Warren
Thief River Falls
Saint Hilaire
Redlake Falls
Brookston
East Grand Forks
14th Standard Parallel
13th Standard Parallel
RED LAKE
RED
Thief R.
Red Lake R.
Clearwater
Mud L.
Elm L.
Tamarac
Middle
Black
Hill
Lake
NORTH
OSLO
GREAT
6th Guide
STEPHEN
FLORIAN
BEND
WEST VALLEY
LOVEIDO
OPDAHL
INGALLS
APPLE
STRANDQUIST OR LUND
KOLAND
JEVNE
SKRAMSTAD
DECOY
WARE
JOHNSTAD
FRAM
GATZKE
MIDDLE RIVER
WHITEFORD
ROLLIS
ROCKSTAD
RINGLO
HOLT
SORUM
MANOR
SANDRIDGE
STEINER
THORWICK
GERMANTOWN
GRYGLA
LINER
ESPLEE
MYRAN
ORHEIM
MALCOLM
CARMEL
HAMRE
JELLE
MCPHAIL
FODVANG
NEWFOLDEN
PAUL
KLEP
ELLERT
FOLDAL
LLEWELLYN
STONE
HELLEM
EXCEL
VIKING
STRIP
ANITA
ELMBO
JUVIK
LUNA
RADIUM
BLOOMER
GOTLAND
VEGA
ALVARADO
SNAKE OR
ALVOR
RIGWOODS
BAGGONWOOD
GRANVILLE
BIRKHOLTZ
NORTHLAND
TABOR
ANGUS
NOBLE
ROOD
TWEST
CROSSING
BRAY
ANTON
KRATKA
HAZEL
WYANDOTTE
GARNES
LILLO
PLUMMER
LOST
GRIT
WANKEO
MEADOWS
GRIEBROK
ESPETVET
LAMBERT
BROOKS
TERREBONNE
REDLAKE FALLS JC.
PERAULT
GENTILLY
FISHER
WILD
THOMPSON
WALLE
MERRIFIELD
GYGLAND
HIXON
ST. V. JC.
N. P. CR.
ANDOLIN
COLONY
ST. HILAIRE JC. OR SHIRLEY
FREEMANS
MERRILLS
DAVIDSON
NESBIT
WALKERTON
BUFFINGTON
HILLTOP
DOROTHY P.O. OR IVES
KEYWEST
N. P. CR. OR S. EUCLID
EUCLID
KEYSTONE
CARTHAGE JC.
CARTHAGE
SULLYANS
SHERACK
KELLYS
UNIVERSITY
GRAND FORKS JC.
MANVEL
SCHUMEIER
WINDSOR
CHURNES
GULLY
168
157
156
155
154
153
152
151
150
10½
10¾
8½
8¼

Future of Thief River Falls

BY REV. INO B. SMITH

ONE question is always pertinent in regard to new towns that have sprung up so rapidly in this great Northwest. It is this: what of the future? It is a question that prospective settlers ask, and have a right to ask regarding any community where they think of making their home or investing their capital. This question we shall endeavor to answer, in as conservative a manner as facts will warrant, in relation to Thief River Falls.

Agriculture—In the territory that must always be tributary to our city, there are 8,500 quarter sections of land, of which 6,500 quarter sections are, as yet, unoccupied. Some of this land requires draining; but every foot of it can ultimately be brought under the plow. Let us pause at this point, and calculate the possibilities of this territory, with one family of five on each quarter section, a population of 32,000 souls would cluster around the city. Then it is fair to assume that each section of land is easily capable of sustaining 20 cows; and that a net annual profit of $25.00 per cow can readily be realized, on a total net, annual profit of over $1,000,000 from cows alone.

Great as these figures appear they are the result of calm sober thinking and are below rather than above the results that may be reasonably expected. But actual farming operations have demonstrated beyond a doubt the fertility of the soil and its adaptibility to the culture of wheat, barley, oats, rye, flax and all garden vegetables, giving ample assurance that diversified farming can be carried on with profit. When these simple facts are more generally understood there will be no difficulty in securing for our city and its environment a large and thriving population.

Manufactures—Closely connected with, and growing out of, a flourishing agriculture, are plants of various kinds, such as creameries, cheese factories, and slaughter houses, where the products of the farm will be turned into articles of commerce.

These will be supplemented by such establishments as fostered by our natural location and facilities. It only needs to be known that water power capable of running a score of factories is simply awaiting development and can be supplied cheaply, to bring to our doors, factories that will turn our lumber into furniture, hard-wood flooring, wagons, boxes, and commercial fixtures. With the extensions of the sheep raising industry will come woolen mills, and with the increase in the acreage sown to flax, oil mills and flax mills are sure to arrive.

Commerce—A glance at the map will disclose, to even a casual observer, the unexcelled facilities for distributing the product of field and factory, enjoyed by our city. The

twin arteries of commerce; Rail and River spreading North, East, West, and South, are already athrob with the life current of nations and are eagerly awaiting the further demand of the manufacturers and the agriculturist alike.

With commendable, prophetic foresight some wholesale firms have seized this strategic point for the commercial conquest of this Northland, others will follow; nay, are bound to follow, or yield the commercial supremacy of this fast developing territory to more fortunate rivals. Within a few years, this city should be headquarters for groceries, dry goods, clothing, hardware, farm machinery, and household furniture, for the vast territory bounded on the North by the Canadian boundary line, on the East by the Red Lake, and on the West by the Red River of the North.

Educational—With the continued inflow of the population new school buildings will be a necessity, so that in the future, our three large school buildings already overcrowded, will be reinforced by at least three more, built and equipped after the modern ideal. A new and improved high school building, located in some central position, and thoroughly furnished with all modern improvements and appliances is especially desirable.

With the change in the standards of education and the broadening of its scope, work in manual training, and domestic science, so admirably begun will be extended and perfected. Steps should, at once, be taken to secure a state normal school for the city, and this should be easily accomplished in view of our population and central location, our easy accessibility, and our healthful conditions.

Summarising the foregoing article, within ten years Thief River Falls should be a city of 20,000, and the manufacturing, commercial, educational and social center of the Northwestern part of Minnesota.

The First National Bank

First National Bank Building

THIS bank was started December 10, 1900, by L. C. Simons, of Red Lake Falls, and local parties in Thief River Falls, as the Scandia State Bank with a capital of $10,000.

On April 6th, 1901, A. C. Baker , a wealthy capitalist of Decorah, Iowa, C. H. Stone, of Minneapolis and W. W. Prichard purchased control of the Scandia State Bank of L. C. Simons and others. C. H. Stone, A. C. Baker and W. W. Prichard were elected directors and W. W. Prichard was appointed Cashier. Its deposits at that time amounted to $6263.00 and its loans $7,000.

July 6th, 1901, the Scandia State Bank was reorganized as the First National Bank with a capital of $25,000, and C. H. Stone was elected Pres.; Rasmus Oen, V. Pres.; and W. W. Prichard, Cashier. The First National Bank is the only National Bank in Red Lake County. The bank has always been fortunate in having some of the best business men in the city associated with it as officers and directors.

Owing to ill health C. H. Stone retired from the Presidency in January, 1905 and A. C. Baker was elected President serving in that capacity until July, 1906, when his interests were purchased by W. W. Prichard and others. Rasmus Oen who had held the position as V. Pres., since the organization of the old Scandia State Bank, was then elected President and Dr. F. H. Cambell, Vice President.

Mr. W. W. Prichard, the Cashier, is the leading spirit in the bank and its success is due, in a large measure to his personal efforts and his close attention to the business. Mr. Prichard has been connected with the banking business for over twenty years and has always been very successful. Previous to locating in this city he resided for thirty years in northern Iowa, where he was identified with various enterprises of considerable importance in different localities and has a wide acquaintance over the state of Iowa. He was born in Pennsylvania in 1856 and removed with his parents in 1859 to California. Mr. Prichard has unlimited faith in the future of Thief River Falls and the country tributary, as is evidenced by his holdings. He is the owner of over two thousand acres of choice farm land and is actively farming close to a thousand acres near the city.

The bank owns its own building, a cut of which is here shown, and the same with its fine furniture is second to none in northern Minnesota.

The present officers and directors are Rasmus Oen, Pres.; Dr. F. H. Cambell, Vice Pres.; W. W. Prichard, Cashier; A. I. Anderson and W. W. Prichard, Jr., Assistant Cashiers.

DIRECTORS

Rasmus Oen,
Dr. F. H. Cambell,
Levi C. Robertson,
John P. Curtis,
Fred S. Roth,
H. M. Cambell,
W. W. Prichard.

W. W. Prichard

Peoples State Bank Building

The Peoples State Bank

The Peoples State Bank was organized in the fall of 1906, with a capital of $30,000.00.

The institution was fortunate in having among its stockholders prominent farmers, business men and financiers. The bank proved to be a success from the beginning and has been constantly growing.

The officers of the bank are D. B. Bakke, Pres., H. A. Loken, Vice President, T. P. Hamre, Cashier, and Oscar Sponheim, Asst. Cashier.

The neat and handsome bank building is situated on Third Street, between LaBree and Main Avenues.

The bank has an extensive list of city property and lands for sale and would be glad to communicate with prospective buyers along this line.

The connections of this bank enables the institution to issue drafts, etc., on every European bank especially in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

First State Bank Building

First State Bank of Thief River Falls

The First State Bank was organized in 1892, and opened its offices in a building which, at that time was one of the best in the village. In 1906 the bank moved into its present commodious quarters situated on the corner of 2nd Street and Main Avenue in the Thirty Thousand Dollars ($30,000.00) building erected by Messrs. Dobner and Meehan.

The First State Bank is the oldest bank in the city and enjoys a large acquaintance in the surrounding country. This bank has from time to time bought land as opportunity presented itself, and has at present a number of improved farms for sale at prices which are very attractive.

This bank has a capital of $10,000.00 and a surplus of $30,000.00, making a working capital of $40,000.00. Their deposits are about $200,000.00 and loans $115,000.

C. L. Dobner is president, Math Barzen the Vice president, H. G. Dobner is the Cashier and L. M. Hoag is Asst. cashier.

Citizens State Bank

The Citizens State Bank is one of the younger banks of this section, having been organized in the fall of 1903, but with its rapidly increasing business it is already taking a place amongst the leading financial institutions of Northern Minnesota. It is located at the corner of Main Avenue and Third Street, and is the best equipped bank in the city, both as to facilities for handling business and protection against burglary and robbery. The fire-proof vault is completely covered on the inside—floor, ceiling, walls and door—with double steel sheathing constantly charged with an electrical current, and any attempt to gain admittance to the vault, except at certain hours during the day, would set an alarm going, sufficient to wake up the soundest sleeper within a distance of several blocks. Still more important, however, than the safe-guarding of a bank's cash against burglary and robbery is that its funds be wisely and safely invested. In this respect the Citizens State Bank is fortunate in being managed by experienced and careful officers, who never sacrifice safety for the sake of profit. The President, Mr. Olaf Ramstad, has had years of experience in mercantile and other lines of business, and with his thorough knowledge of values he is well qualified for the duties of a bank officer. Mr. T. L. Melgaard, the Cashier, though a comparatively young man, has been for many years engaged in bank work, having been employed in Grand Forks and Fargo, N. Dak. banks for ten years prior to his locating at this place. The other officers and directors are: O. J. Schei, Vice President, C. W. Vorachek, Assistant Cashier, Rasmus Oen, B. Christianson, C. M. Evenson, Louis Hanson and C. Amundson, directors. All of these are well-known business men and residents of Thief River Falls. That this bank has the confidence of the public is best reflected in the record of its growth from year to year, as shown in the following table:

Total resources on		November	1, 1903,	$ 40,451.47
"	"	" November	1, 1904,	76,265.28
"	"	" November	1, 1905,	120,051.66
"	"	" November	1, 1906,	149,632.31
"	"	" November	1, 1907,	188,118.23

Olaf Ramstad

T. L. Melgaard

The Golden Rule Department Store

Photo by Borry

Golden Rule Dry Goods Department

Photo by Borry

Golden Rule Grocery Department

ON August 1, 1902, O. J. Schei and Co. opened a general store on North Main Avenue, Thief River Falls, in a building 22 by 60 feet, which, at that time, was sufficiently large to house the stock then carried. The business increased so rapidly that it soon necessitated greater space, which was secured when, on July 1, 1904, the firm opened up a complete department store, known as the GOLDEN RULE DEPARTMENT STORE, in the Evenson Block on the corner of Main Avenue and Third Street. Here, commodious quarters, with 10,000 feet floor space, accommodate one of the neatest and best selected stocks of merchandise that can be found north of the Twin cities. Skillful and conservative management has placed this firm in the front rank of mercantile concerns that are well known as being on a sound financial basis; while intelligent heads of departments, aided by a corps of obliging clerks, make it a popular place of trade and permit it to enjoy a large and increasing share of public patronage.

Langseth Mercantile Company

Hans Langseth

P. P. Hamre

Langseth Mercantile Company was established in this city March, 1887. During the month of March, 1887, Falk and Langseth shared a little trading store in the southwest part of the town near where the switch now crosses Main Avenue. Business was slow those days, but the store prospered and continued to grow.

The firm remained the same until April, 1892, when Mr. C. Falk retired, and Hans Langseth continued the business. In 1888 the store was moved into a new building on the present site, but it soon became too small for the extensive business, and in 1893 the present large and commodious store building was erected and occupied.

In March, 1902, Anton Langseth, a brother, was taken into the firm, and until January 1906, the business was carried on in the name of Langseth Bros. Hans Langseth died January 13th 1905, and T. P. Hamre was appointed administrator of the estate. Mr. Hamre continued the business until Feb. 27th, 1907, when it was organized into a corporation with a paid up capital of $30,000.00, with the following well known and reliable men as principal officers: T. P. Hamre, president; D. B. Bakke, secretary; H. H. Skagen, treasurer, and P. P. Hamre, general manager.

The store now carries one of the largest stocks and enjoys as large a trade as any store in northwestern Minnesota. The building is located in the business center of the city and they have an established reputation for good goods and honest treatment.

Hans Langseth was one of the early settlers in this county, having come to St. Hilaire in 1882 and to Thief River Falls in 1887. Mr. Langseth had a large circle of friends and held many positions of trust in the city, in business and church affairs. He was for some time member of the Board of Aldermen of this city and treasurer of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod Church.

Langseth Mercantile Co.'s Building

Langseth Mercantile Co's. Stockholders

Langseth Mercantile Co's. Employees

Grocery Department

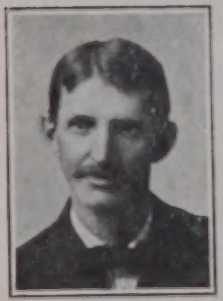
Dry Goods Department

Hardware Department

Jackson & McGinn Building

Interior from Jackson & McGinn Hardware Store

Jackson & McGinn



C. C. Jackson

C. C. Jackson came to Thief River Falls July, 1894, as manager of the hardware store of Hunt & Myer, which he managed until 1899, when the stock was purchased by himself and Mr. Bailey, and re-opened under the name of Jackson & Bailey. In February, 1902, Mr. Bailey's interests were taken over by Robt. McGinn and the firm name changed to C. C. Jackson & Company. In 1904, they purchased the lot and frame store building on the corner of La Bree avenue and Third street, and in 1905, their business having increased so, they erected a new cement block building, two stories and full basement, 25x140 feet.

The business was continued under the name of C. C. Jackson & Company until January, 1907, when the firm name was changed to Jackson & McGinn, who continue to do a thriving business.

Robt. McGinn

Torrison Brothers

Since this firm started in with their furniture business no one need to go to the big cities for selecting high grade work along this line. It can all be had right here.

Besides their furniture and undertaking business they have Musical Instruments, Carpets, Rugs, Window Shades, Lace Curtains, Edison Phonographs and Records and make Picture Framing a specialty.

Call in and get prices.

Evenson and Torrison Block

Rasmus Oen's
First Tinshop 1889-1892

Rasmus Oen's Hardware Store 1892-1908

Rasmus Oen Block 1908.
Occupied by Oen Department Store

Street Scene on La Bree Avenue

THE HOTEL EVELYN,

Conducted by Julien Provencher, himself a former traveling salesman, is well and favorably known to the ancient trade of northern Minnesota.

The Evelyn is situated on La Bree Avenue about midway between the Soo and Great Northern Stations and is easy of access to both.

Located in a modern fireproof cement block structure, erected in 1905, it is thoroughly modern throughout, being fitted with steam heat, electric lights, local and long distance telephones, sample rooms and other conveniences.

Many of the rooms have baths and house telephones, and all are comfortable and well furnished.

Owing to the increase of business in the summer of 1908, Mr. Provencher found it necessary to acquire an annex immediately adjoining the hotel of ten finely lighted and furnished rooms, equipped with baths and all essentials for the accommodation of the public, making the hotel the leading in the northwestern part of the State.

The table service of the Evelyn is unsurpassed.

A free bus meets all trains.

Rates $2.00 per day and up.

The Hanson & Barzen Milling Co.

It having become evident during the season of 1903 and 1904, that the old O. K. Mill could no longer be operated at a profit on account of its age and limited capacity, the matter of building a new mill was agitated and the following named citizens of Thief River Falls organized and incorporated the Hanson & Barzen Milling Company for the purpose of conducting a flour milling, grain and elevator business with the mill and home office at Thief River Falls. Math Barzen, D. N. Winton, C. J. Winton, Louis Hanson, and W. D. Fuller.

It was decided to at once commence the construction of a new mill. The old O. K. mill building was torn down and a strictly modern and complete new plant of 250 bbls. capacity was erected upon the same site, with a rye mill of 50 bbls. and feed mill of 60 ton capacity, and with elevator of 40000 bu. capacity adjoining the mill.

The Company at once commenced the erection of elevators and warehouses for handling grain, flour and feed, at outside stations, and have been extending their territory each year since that time, now having branches at Orleans, Greenbush, Newfolden, Middle River, Holt, Hazel, Steiner, Plummer, Nekoma, Culbertson, Bainesville, Crookston, Lancaster and Strathcona.

The Milling plant is being kept in continuous operation, and the Company's head miller, Mr. Rinker, has established a splendid reputation for their Fancy Patent brand of flour, which is widely and favorably known as VIVO.

Peoples' Drug Store

Skandinavisk Apothek

Arnold Bjerkhoel, Proprietor

When in need of Drugs, Medicines, Jewelry, Stationery, Toilet Articles, etc., give us a call. We want your business and will treat you right. All prescriptions brought to our store will be carefully compounded. Mail orders will be promptly attended to. Our prices are always right.

Give us your business and you will not regret it.

Interior of J. A. Swore's Confectionery Store

Remember J. A. Swore's Confectionery Store, the largest and most up-to-date in the city. Cigars and tobacco, soda fountain, fancy candies, stationery, sheet music and pianos.

A. Anderson's Jewelry Store

S. H. Scharbach Store

I can sell you every thing from head to foot and save you money.

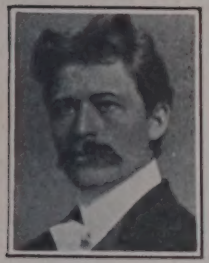
Ladies Cloaks, Skirts, Waists and Hats a specialty.

I want your trade.

Call next door to post-office.

S. H. SCHARBACH.

A. Anderson, the jeweller and watchmaker, came to America in 1877 and to Thief River Falls 1903. Has 30 years experience as watchmaker and jeweler and carries a nice line of jewelry and silverware.



Dr. P. L. Vistaunet, born at Inderoen, Norway, came to America 1888, attended Concordia College, Moorhead, 1895-98, graduated from college of Medicine and Surgery, University of Minnesota, June, 1902. Began practice of medicine at Thief River Falls, July, 1902, where he has since remained. Member of Red River Medical Society and American Medical Association. Member of different orders.

Dr. G. W. Booren, born 1880 at Stillwater, Minnesota, graduate from Chicago College of Dentristy 1903, came to Thief River Falls the same year and has practiced there ever since.

Phone No. 79. Jackson & McGinn Block.

Dr. O. F. Melby, born at New Richland, Minn., 1876; graduate from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and in 1901 graduate from College of Medicine and Surgery, University of Minnesota; hospital work at St. Paul 1902; worked with Dr. Bratrud, Warren, Minn., 1902-1906; came to Thief River Falls August 1907.

Phone 196 and 167.

G. A. PENNEY,
DENTIST
Evenson Block,
THIEF RIVER FALLS, MINNESOTA,
Telephone 27.

Attorney Wilhelm Michelet (Norwegian), born at Madison, Wis., 1873. Graduate from Minnesota University Law School, 1903 and located the same year in Thief River Falls where he since has practiced law. From June 1906 to August 1907 he was City Attorney.

OLAF C BAKKEN

The well known tailor came from Trysil, Norway, in 1880, and has remained in Minnesota ever since. To Thief River Falls he came in 1902. He is a self-made man, and although the needle for 30 years has been his tool, he in spite of this has built his own residence with his own hands. He is a man of many ideas and intellectual interests, has a nice library, has been justice of peace, etc. Married Lina Nyhus and has seven children.

My 240 acre farm—see picture among the farms—is for sale; 60 acres of timber, balance prairie; 70 acres in field, 80 acres of good pasture. Good hay meadow, good buildings, two wells, school house on the farm. Five miles from creamery. Price $20 per acre.

ANTON GUNDERSON,
Box 1152, Thief River Falls

The Evelyn Barber Shop

Next door North from Morgans Place

A. H. Huseth

You can get your work done as good as any place in the city and in less time.

Shaving, Haircutting, Beard Trimming, Electric and Hand Massages. Shampooing and tonic of the best, always.

I invite you to give us a trial, it will be appreciated.

Your humble servant,
A. H. HUSETH.
Prop.

Hub Restaurant

Hub Restaurant

E. F. DeVELING, Proprietor & Manager.

This restaurant is first-class in every particular. Open day and night. Has 15 first class rooms in connection.

J. J. Bird Confectionery Store

This is "The Palace of the Sweets," and there you can get Fancy Candies, Fruits of all kinds, Ice Cream and Soda, Stationery and Post Cards, Pipes, Cigars, Tobacco, and notions of many kinds.

Nearly every farm and creamery picture and the big majority of private residences, etc., for this book have been photographed by

O. C. Evenson, Thief River Falls

He has all the negatives for those pictures and can furnish any number of original photographs from the same in ordinary big sizes.

Arrange with him for all kinds of work in this line.

Korstad Shoe Store

We think you will be interested in knowing where you can trade most economically so we are telling you something about our goods and our methods.

We handle only those goods which we are sure will satisfy you and every customer in every way.

We aim to treat you in such a way, and sell you such goods that whenever we are mentioned you will say "there's a good place to trade."

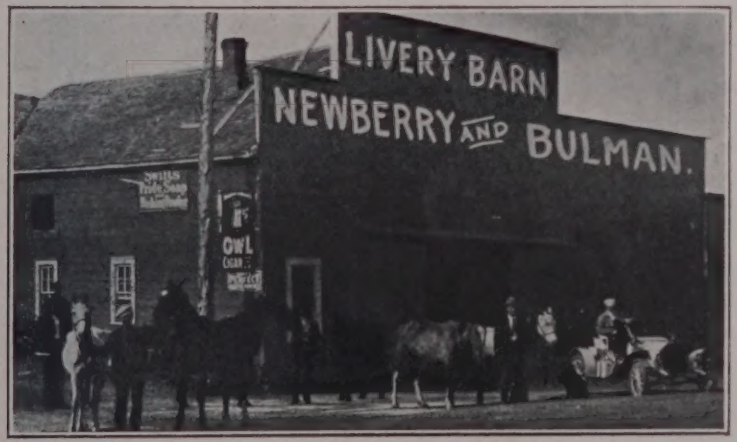
Style, fit, long and satisfactory service are qualities always found in every shoe we sell.

We have them for all the family, for every purpose—dress shoes, work shoes, school shoes and all-around shoes.

One thing is certain—you can always depend on getting honest service if you trade with us.

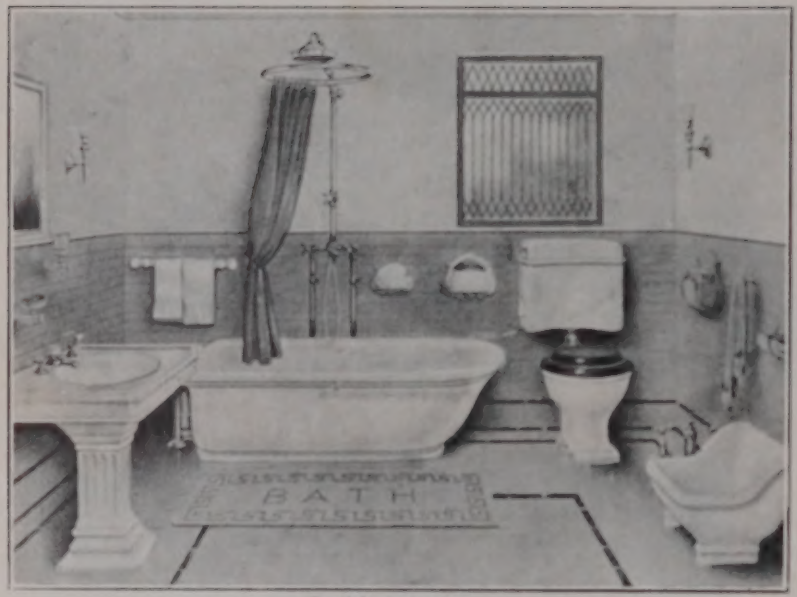
A. B. Remmem's Livery Barn

Jensen & Sons
The Horse Exchange Livery



Newberry & Bulman Livery Barn

Sundahl Bros. Livery Barn



Bathing room.

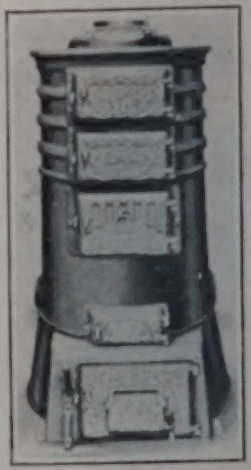
Thief River Falls Heating and Plumbing Company

EMIL DRYFOOS

Our Plumbing Department is the largest in the northwest. We carry a big line of fixtures and have the best laborers.

We also install Gasoline, Gas Machines for homes which can not be reached by electric light or gas light.

American Ideal Radiators and Boilers for hot water or low pressure steam are put in thousands of homes each year to replace stoves and hot-air furnaces which have been found wasteful in fuel while heating one side of the house in windy weather, spouting ashes, soot, and coal-gases into the rooms and soon destroying carpets and furnishings.



Boiler

Our radiant methods of heating are positive and liberal. Windward rooms are evenly warmed and freed from dust and dirt. They attract and hold best tenants.

Estimates furnished free for plumbing and heating. Your repairing solicited and promptly attended to.

Middle River City

The Main Street in Middle River

The most progressive new town in Northern Minnesota. Twenty-two miles north of Thief River Falls on the Greenbush branch of the Great Northern road is located the Village of Middle River.

The town site was located, promoted and is owned by a corporation known as the Northern Townsite Company, which corporation includes in its membership such sterling business men as Hon. A. D. Stephens, of Crookston, Col. R. A. Wilkinson, of St Paul, T. P. Hamre and M. V. Evenson, of Thief River Falls. The company located the village and surveyed the site in the spring of 1904 on the line of the then proposed Great Northern branch road. The company displayed good business judgment in locating the village, for a more ideal townsite could not be conceived. The village is situated on the banks of the stream for which it is named, the business section being on the south side and the residence section on the north side of the river. A well graded street and a public wagon and foot bridge connects the two sections. The village rests on dry sandy soil with ample drainage into the river and its streets are dry at all times of the year.

The townsite company at the very inception of the village laid a good foundation by grading up the principal streets in both sections, and set out evergreen trees along the residence streets. And from that time on until now the

Boating on Middle River

spirit of progress has prevailed among the citizens and property owners, and the village, while it is not yet a city, has made remarkable progress in everything that tends to insure stability and growth.

The pioneers of the village in business lines were the general merchandise firm of Hjertos & Dalquist, the hardware firm of Hall & Larson, J. C. Dills, druggist, and R. D. V. Carr, the publisher of the Middle River Pioneer.

The railroad reached the village late in October, and from then on, other business enterprises and substantial citizens came to the new town so rapidly that by the spring of 1905 the village had population enough to incorporate. In addition to the firm of Hjertos & Dalquist, two other general merchandise stores are now in operation, the proprietors being Jonas Sjoberg and B. F. Benson. The Middle River Hardware Company operate the only exclusive hardware store in the village, although Mr. Sjoberg maintains a large hardware department in his general store. Other business institutions here are the following: The St.Hilaire Lumber Company, managed by A. W. Peterson; The Red Lake Falls Milling Company's Elevator, C. A. Berg, manager; Hanson & Barzen Milling Company, John Phillipson, manager The State Bank of Middle River; H. L. Melgaard of Argyle, president, A. C. Kvennes, cashier; the Owl Saloon, J. P. Deschenes, Prop.; The White Elephant, Saloon, Henry Young, Prop.; Middle River Land & Loan Co., the membership of which are V. A. Greer and John McNichols; Pioneer Hotel, V. A. Greer, Prop.; Scandia Hotel, Eric Orwald, Prop.; Nordlum & Schenke, liverymen; Anton Wicklund, Blacksmith; Anderson & Wood, meat market; The Pioneer, R. D. V. Carr, publisher.

Middle River Public School

But perhaps the one business enterprise that more than all others has advanced the interests of the village and community, is the Middle River City Co-operative Creamery Association. The association formed of farmers and the business men of the village, built the creamery in the spring of 1907 and commenced business on the 10th of June. The commencement was made with about 40 patrons and the highest output for the summer of 1907 was 29 tubs per

week. The present season (1908) there are 85 patrons with an output of 50 tubs per week.

The village has a neat School house, built and equipped on modern lines and costing $2400.

The First Presbyterian Church has been in use for two years, while the Norwegian Lutherans have a church building in process of construction.

The village has always kept pace with much larger municipalities in the matter of public improvements, having well graded streets and good side-walks. The village council is at present expending several hundred dollars in the construction of a dam and lake in the river. Several thousand feet of dirt is being excavated, which is being utilized in making a dam and grading up two boulevards, one on each side of the lake, which will be a block long by 175 feet wide. The boulevards will ultimately be lined with trees and sown to lawn grass and in connection with the lake will be a thing of beauty for the village. But besides its ornamental and pleasure giving purposes, the lake will be of practical utility in furnishing a reservoir of water for fire protection and the watering of stock, and providing an unlimited supply of ice for the ice houses of the village.

As is seen by illustrations elsewhere in this publication-Middle River is surrounded by well improved farms owned and operated by successful farmers. No part of the state has richer lands, and the yields of all kinds of grains and grasses are the very highest.

Thief River Falls as a Farming Center

BY D. P. O'NEIL

AT THE outset I wish to correct the erroneous opinion of the lands adjacent to the City of Thief River Falls. A great many persons are of the belief that because this is a lumber manufacturing center it must of necessity be located in the lumber woods, while others associate us with cut over lands and pine stumps. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is not now, nor never was, a pine tree growing within one hundred miles of this city. This country is prairie or, properly speaking, park; the prairies being dotted over with groves, which break the force of the winds in the winter and afford shade in the summer. This makes it an ideal country for dairying, which is the principal business now engaged in by the farmers of the surrounding country. There are no less than ten creameries in a radius of twenty miles. This vicinity is destined to be one of the best dairy districts in the state as soon as the farmers come to understand the principal of feeding. I wish also to correct another erroneous idea that this country is low and flat. The truth is that while the surface is level still there is plenty of fall towards the rivers, running from two to six feet to the mile.

General View of the Country. L. M. Rolland's Farm.

The soil varies from heavy black loam to sandy loam according to the location, but the entire country tributary to the city has a yellow clay subsoil, strongly impregnated with lime.

The writer moved to this country six years ago from central Minneapolis, and is now fully convinced that dis-

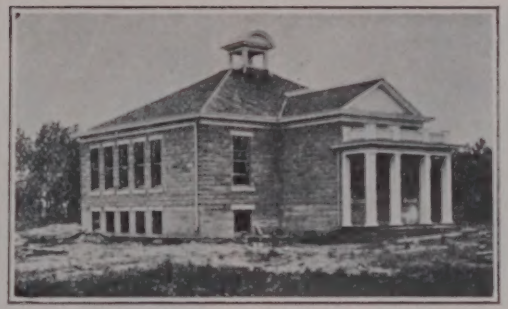
Christ Thompson's (Norstegaard's) Farm.

Farm Scene near Germantown.

tances from markets, quality of soil, price of land, quantity of feed raising per acre, freedom of diseases to stock of all kinds and market furnished by the five thousand people of the city, that any person with a small capital and willing to work will make good, and in time own his own home in one of the best dairy districts in Minnesota. Now, I presume, some of my old friends in central and southern Minnesota

In A Rye Field, near Thief River Falls.

Country School House near Thief River Falls.



School House at Newfolden.

The new and the old School House at Germantown.

Church at Newfolden.

Church at Sandridge.

Church at Viking.

P. Engelstad's Barn and Silo.

will smile should they read this, but I say without fear of successful contradition, that we can raise more food per acre on our fifteen to forty dollar lands than they can on their forty to eighty dollar lands, and the freight on butter to New York or Spokane is practically the same.

One reason for the rank growth of grasses is, that the snow lies on the ground here all winter; its proximity to the lakes and timber; and its greater rain fall in the spring

Elias Jorunddal's Farm, near Viking.

Christ Thompson's (Norstegaards) Barn

—the season grasses require the most moisture. In fact, before the country was developed and there were no ditches to carry off the water we had almost too much, but now, land is being put under cultivation, and the roads are being graded, which is the only ditch system required. Lands that water stood on when I came here six years ago are

Carsten Christensen's Farm.

Lars Johnson's Farm, near Viking

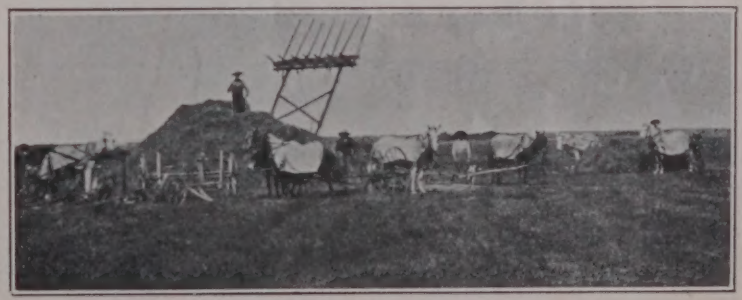
now high and dry, and I must say that with all the improvements going on in and around the city there has nothing kept pace with road building. Any person driving out of this city in a northerly or easterly direction five or six years ago would take the same drive to-day would scarcely believe his eyes. Free mail delivery in every direction and

Mattias Skogstad's Farm

Wheat Field near Thief River Falls.

telephones running along most section lines.

We now raise almost all kinds of small grain, such as wheat, oats, barley, flax, buckwheat, rye, speltz, and are now raising winter wheat successfully and are going into raising it more, having discovered by experiments that it does well here. The flint varieties of corn do well here and we are now changing to the larger dent varieties, just as



Alfred Rustebakke's Farm.

Germantown.

they did in central Minnesota years ago. The writer has a full field of corn of the dent variety standing about eight feet high, which I am in hopes will ripen this season. I will also state that I have raised wheat for the last thirty years in Big Stone, Traverse and Norman counties and the small field I have this season here has the best promises of any I ever raised any year. And while all of our lands may not be first class wheat lands, still seventy-five or eighty per cent of them, with proper cultivation, will produce as fine a crop of wheat as can be raised in the state. There is no waste land, as the balance produces grass and will in time, after proper drainage, become the richest land.

Walter McAndrus' Farm, near Highlanding.

On P. Engelstad's Farm

The unbroken prairies are covered with luxuriant growths of grasses, such as red top, white clover and pea vine, some seasons running from one to two tons to the acre. By this I mean high lands. A good red top slough will cut

Wm. Parnow's Farm, near Highlanding.

Oscar Drott's Farm, near Viking.

two or three tons to the acre. But the growth of red clover is something remarkable, securing two crops each year.

Small fruit does remarkably well. Currants, gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, plums and the hybrid cherries and apples. Fruit is natural to this soil. On my farm

W. W. Prichard's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

How It Grows Around Thief River Falls.

adjoining the city there grows wild strawberries, raspberries, black currants, high bush cranberries, gooseberries and hazel nuts. The timber is popular and oak with elm and bass wood growing along the river. The majority of the farms have timber enough for fuel, making a great saving in living expenses.

W. W. Prichard's Farm.

R. L. Mussey's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

But some persons may ask about the winter up in that latitude. The writer must confess that we do have winter and the mercury sometimes crawls down as low as thirty and forty below, but if there were no thermometers to

Christ Rud's Farm, near Viking.

S. O. Lee's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

register it you would never suspect of its being so cold on account of the dryness of the atmosphere. The snow is always dry, and the writer has worked out practically all the time for the last five winters and suffered no inconvenience. There is good sledding for about three months, which gives a good covering to winter wheat, rye and tame grasses.

O. Tessum's Farm, Thief River Falls.

Wheat Field near Thief River Falls.

Threshing near Thief River Falls.

Still with all its natural resources and markets for eggs and butter and all kinds of farm produce, this country is no exception to the rule, and some people left here for Oregon, Washington, Canada and California some years ago, but, according to letters written back, many of them wish themselves back, but are financially unable to come.

Lands range in prices from fifteen to fifty dollars, according to location, quality and improvements, but going back ten to twenty miles good land can be purchased from fifteen to twenty dollars with improvements. There are creameries and stores in the neighborhood and they receive a daily mail and many of them have telephone connection with the city. There is some land held by speculators, which

Nils Rodegaard's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

Cutting Clover on P. Engelstad's Farm.

Fred Copp's Farm, Thief River Falls.

P. Sullivan's Farm, near Highlanding.

can be purchased on easy terms, or a person can get good farms to rent on shares for a term of years until they can look around and become acquainted. But it does not seem possible to me that land that will produce from fifteen to twenty bushels of wheat, twenty to sixty of oats, ten to twenty of flax and two to four tons of clover to an acre, near good markets and with good roads can long be purchased for from fifteen to twenty-five dollars per acre.

Halvor Fodstad's Farm.

A. E. Moengen's Farm.

Mikkel Bakken's Farm.

Letters From Farmers

St. Hilaire, Minn., Aug. 18th, 1908.

Dear Sir:—I came here from Crookston, Minn., sixteen years ago, took a homestead and bought improvements for $800.00. When I started I had $600 in cash and one cow.

On Charles Gustafson's Farm.

From Mikkel Bakken's Farm.

After buying my improvements I was $800.00 in debt and by working part of my time on the farm I would go out work-

R. L. Mussey's Farm.

Dennis Connely's Farm.

ing when the busiest time of farm work was over. I was working on the railroad before I came on the farm, earning between $50.00 and $75.00 a month and just came out even. Now, besides my good living, my farm is rising in value every day and I'm more independent. In 1895 I had thirty-seven

Threshing near Thief River Falls.

John Lundgren's Farm.

bushels of wheat on an average to the acre. I raised 125 bushels of potatoes on one acre last year. The average of my wheat crop is about twenty-five bushels per acre; oats, 30 bushels; barley thirty bushels; flax fourteen bushels; potatoes, 100 bushels. I have raised beets for cattle at the rate of 800 bushels per acre and can raise the best vegetables. The chance for a settler is better here now than ten years ago, although the land is more expensive. We not only raise grain but we get good returns from the creameries that are

Harold Oen's Farm.

On W. W. Prichard's Farm.

in operation all over the country. It does not take much capital to start in with, three or four cows, which in a few years will increase to quite a herd. This whole country is improving fast and if an eastern man will come here and buy right he can never lose on the land.

Yours truly, CHARLES GUSTAFSON.

Wm. .Bierbauer's Farm.

"IS AN OLD TIMER."

Thief River Falls, Minn., Aug. 15th, 1907.

Dear Sir:—I am what you might term an "Old Timer," having located on a homestead here in 1882, moving from Campbellford, Ont. When I first came to this locality twenty-five years ago, I filed on a claim, proved it up, and, having exceptionally good crops, I managed to get money enough ahead to buy a quarter section of land and, a few

Martin Bothun among his Feathered Friends.

On Chas. Gustafson's Farm.

Anton Gunderson's Farm.

Farm near Middle River.

years later, was able to buy another quarter on which my present home is located. Wheat, oats and barley are my principal crop. By proper planting and cultivation, wheat is a never failing crop. I have also had great success with oats and barley. The climate seems to be perfectly adapted to these grains. The climate seems to agree with me very well, and my family are all healthy. For a poor man, or a man

Aug. Brees Farm, near Middle River.

Erick Peterson's Farm, near Middle River.

with moderate means, the chances are still good, because a farm can be bought at reasonable terms. The conditions are such at present that I would be glad to call my eastern friends' attention to this country, as we have good roads, and the land is being thoroughly drained. We have splendid weather during the spring and fall, which counts for much in farming. I feel that I have done better in this locality than I could have expected to do anywhere else. I am well

O. O. Erickson's Farm, near Middle River.

Erick Anderson's Farm, near Middle River.

satisfied, have fine buildings and all that a man could wish. The biggest crops I remember of having raised was in 1895, when my wheat averaged thirty-five bushels, oats seventy-five bushels, barley forty-five to fifty bushels per acre.

Yours truly, DENNIS CONNELY.

FROM ANOTHER "OLD TIMER."

My farm is located on the bank of the Red Lake River, one mile south of Thief River Falls. Ninety-three acres were

Nils Nora's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

taken as homestead in the year 1887, and eighty acres have since been purchased.

The land was very difficult to till as it was covered with brush. When I first started farming I had no money to begin with, but I am on easy street now. We have a fine farm and home, without a mortgage on it and the property is increasing in value very fast. We have eight in our family, six children, four boys and two girls.

P. Sorenson's Farm Home

Andrew Schey's Farm Home, near Middle River

Eiliv Gravlie's Farm Home.

Henry Arendt's Farm, Brunkeberg.

The land here is very fertile if worked right. We have not had a crop failure up here that I know of, with an exception of once, when hail ruined the grain for some of us. In the year 1895, wheat yielded around Thief River Falls, 35 bushels to the acre, oats 75, and barley 50 bushels and all other years we have had very good crops if not quite so heavy a yield. I have now 45 acres in, of small grain of different kinds and expect a good crop. I think my wheat will go 25 bushels to the acre this year. Corn fodder can also be raised successfully. Tame grass, such as clover and timothy, can be raised abundantly. I have 50 acres this year in clover and timothy and also a patch of alfalfa, of which the second crop is over a foot high now, July 20th.

John A. Johnson's Farm, near Thief River Falls.

Clover one year amounted to 3½ tons to the acre the first crop, and over 3 tons the second cutting, which amounted to about 7 tons to the acre for one season. All kinds of vegetables and roots can be abundantly raised.

This is an excellent country for dairying. We have a first class co-operative creamery in Thief River Falls, of which the cash income for the month of June was $6,164.37.

Thief River Falls is a good market place and is on the main line of the Soo R. R. and also the Great Northern railroad. And we have the best climate, and find good drinking water easily on every quarter section in the county, and if anybody from the states east and south of here intend to go north or west to setlle, I will earnestly say that in the vicinity of Thief River Falls is the best place to locate.

MIKKEL P. BAKKEN, Farmer.

Mr. S. O. Lee, three miles from Thief River Falls, writes the following to the publisher of this book:

"I came to Thief River Falls five years ago, after I had sold my land in Clay County, Minn., at $32.00 per acre, and bought 160 acres at $20.00 per acre. The land here is all right and I have got up to 35 bushels of wheat per acre. But for dairy farming, I believe this part of the state is unexcelled, and the only thing we need is more good farmers."

HALVOR FODSTAD came from Grafton, N. D., three years ago, where he sold his farm at $40.00 per acre and bought 320 acres on the Reservation a few miles from Thief River Falls at $18.00 per acre. He says that his new farm has just as valuable land as his old one. Inside of a few years more he will have a nice grove round his farm and everything in elegant shape. At the present time he has 175 acres under cultivation. Has not proved up yet.

FRED BIERBAUER, 3 miles up Red Lake River from Thief River Falls, came 1½ years ago from Iowa. The pictures will show the improvement which he already has made. "We are here to stay, and we are well pleased." he says, "but here are too many bachelors."

NELS KNUTSON, living close to Thief River Falls, writes the publisher:

"In 1882 I homesteaded where I still am living. I have had all the hardships which meet the settlers in early days and I have seen this country grow from wilderness and prairie to smiling fields. Instead of 40 miles to Crookston as the nearest town I now have one mile to Thief River Falls, and everything is easy with good market and excellent transportation facilities. But here is still room for thousands of new thrifty farmers and all of them will do well as the soil is excellent and farmers co-operative creameries located all around."

Thief River Falls, Aug. 22nd, 1908.

Dairying in Red Lake County

BY P. ENGELSTAD

THE dairy industry in Red Lake County, and especially in the northern part, has been for a few years and will be in the future the most important factor in developing the country and it is this line of diversified farming which has done more than anything else to bring about the existing good conditions. Taking into consideration that dairying in this section is yet in its infancy and that it is especially during the last six or seven years that the farmers have paid attention thereto, the progress along that line is simply wonderful.

The interest and enthusiasm for the co-operative creameries is steadily increasing and the motto on every hand seems to be, "more cows, better cows, better feed, better care." In order to show to what an extent farmers have taken hold of dairy matters in the vicinity of Thief River Falls and St. Hilaire, it is sufficient to mention that the co-operative creameries located at each of the above named cities, only eight miles apart did a combined business in 1907, to the amount of $90,000, while in 1908, according to the way business has increased for the part of the year which has passed, it will easily reach the $120,000 mark before the year is out.

From Erskine, close to the southern boundary line of Red Lake County and through Red Lake County and part of Marshall County, there is in operation in the neighborhood

Kratka Creamery

Red Lake Falls Creamery.

Creamery at Middle River

of twenty creameries besides a few cheese factories, which for the most part are operating successfully the year round.

The business in 1908 just along this one line of farming would at a low estimate bring the amount up to the half million dollar mark.

During the land boom some years ago, many a pioneer tempted by the high prices offered them for their land sold out, seeking homes in new fields, and as a consequence, a big per cent of the land remains in speculative hands, and consequently, according to the area has too light a population.

What this section really needs at the present time is an influx of actual farmers to relieve the speculators of their holdings. All the other conditions for making this section a No. 1 dairy country are right here at home.

Red Lake County soil produces almost all kinds of tame grasses, an essential point where dairying is carried on.

The land, as a general rule, is a mixture of open prairie

Farmer's Creamery, St. Hilaire.

The right relation between boss (Chas. Gustafson) and bossies.

The Viking Creamery.

Creamery at Warren.

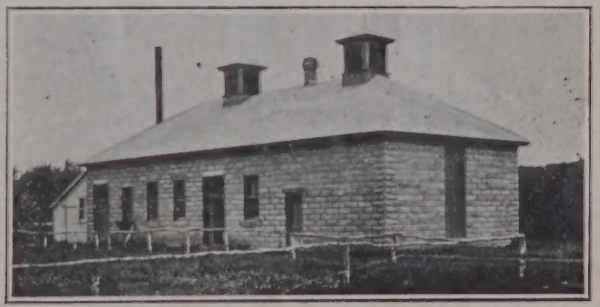
Rollis Co-operative Creamery.

and timber, thus providing shelter for stock in summer as well as in winter. The farmers of this section are an industrious class of people, composed mostly in the Northern part of Scandinavians and a small per cent of Germans and other people.

Those farmers have already passed the grain raising period, when the only thought that wheat was the only mercantile product which could be realized from the farm, occupied one's mind. But time has changed and so the diversified system of farming is gradually getting a firm foothold here. Summing up all the advantages, which we have on hand for making this section an ideal dairy country, coupled with an exceptional interest by the farmers for reform and adoption of new and up to date methods in conducting their farm operations, the country is fast forcing its way to the front, and there is every reason to believe that before many years Red Lake County will rank among the best dairy countries of the State.

The National Dairy and Food Commission on August

Thief River Falls Creamery



Creamery at Newfolden.

Creamery at Badger.

15th, 1908 gave out this statement concerning the ninth congressional district in State of Minnesota:

In 1904 the dairies in this district produced 2,874,918 pounds of butter, and the patrons were paid $415,431. In 1906 the creameries made 6,274,971 pounds of butter and the patrons were paid $1,131,032.88, a gain in pounds of 3,400,153, and a gain in cash paid the farmers of $715,601.59. This is the greatest progress made in any congressional district in the United States during that period, according to the official reports of the United States dairy and food department's official statisticians.

Holt Creamery.

Postoffice and Creamery at Highlanding.

Increases 500 Per Cent

The most important part of the showing of these figures, however, is that they simply indicate the progress made since 1906, which has been three times as great as that of the two years from 1904 to 1906, inclusive. The progress during those two years was over 300 per cent increase, and during the years 1907 and 1908 the increase will net at least 500 per cent, according to State Dairy Inspector A. O. Storvick and others.

The showing made by this district, according to the government report, is a matter of genuine satisfaction to those who have been championing the dairy industry, and shows that the Red River valley and adjacent territory is on a more stable basis than ever before, and making still greater strides along the line of progress in the dairy line. From the present indications this section of the state will very soon lead the entire United States in its production of butter.

Thief River Falls is the center for this great industry, and it might be added, that the largest co-operative creamery in Minnesota is located within a few miles of this city.

C. M. EVENSON, President

I. L. ERICKSON, Secretary

Northern Minnesota Land Company

of Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Offers 25,000 acres of wild and partly improved land, also several agricultural and dairy farms close to market, creameries and schools, at prices from $8.00 per acre and up. The state and counties have now organized a regular drainage system and the northern part of Minnesota will soon be the "garden spot" of the state. Our dairy interests are growing very rapidly and with creameries all over the country the land will surely increase in value from year to year, and the present low prices will not be of long duration. So get a home now when land is within the reach of your purse, and live independent of labor troubles and hard times. As an Investment, Land in Northern Minnesota offers the best and safest, as it will surely double in value before long.

Inquiries regarding Land in Northern Minnesota and especially in Marshall and Red Lake counties, cheerfully and promptly answered.

Northern Minnesota Land Co., Thief River Falls, Minn.

Andrew Stenseth

The Land Man of Thief River Falls

IF you want to get good advice concerning lands, if you want to go into any kind of farming in this part of the State, if you want to buy good land on reasonable terms *write Andrew Stenseth.* He is a practical farmer and he is selling his own lands which he year after year has picked up among the best spots in this territory. He can for instance sell a man a nice farm and a nice home where he can start in at once, *without any payment*, if the man has 10 cows (cows are gold mines here), necessary horses and machinery. And other just as reasonable terms.

Don't forget to write or call on

Andrew Stenseth

The Land Man of Thief River Falls

Some People will tell you of

Their Bank stock, Railway stock, and a great many other securities; all of which net very low rates of interest, but let us tell you of what we have to offer in the way of investments that will bring a much larger profit than stocks or bonds, and at the same time have your property under your own control, where there will be no rake off.

We own and offer for sale a number of choice farms in Red Lake and Marshall Counties, both improved and unimproved, conveniently located to market, schools and churches; well drained and enough timber for home consumption. Soil of the very richest black loam with clay subsoil.

Before investing our money in farm lands, we made it a point to select only the very best tracts, hence we have only the very best to offer, and as we have paid cash, we have bought at right prices and can offer bargains.

We handle only our own lands. No commissions. No trades. For terms and prices address,

Evenson & Hamre

Thief River Falls, Minn.